

The commercial production of Irish potatoes was concentrated in a relatively small proportion of the farms harvesting Irish potatoes.

The three most significant changes in Irish potato production have been: the large reduction in the number of farms growing small quantities of Irish potatoes mainly for home-farm consumption, the concentration of commercial potato production on specialized potato producing farms, and the increase in yield per acre.

In 1959, Irish potatoes were produced on 685 thousand farms. This was less than half the number of farms reporting Irish potatoes in 1954 and less than one-fourth the number of farms reporting Irish potatoes in 1929.

About 70 percent of the farms with Irish potatoes harvested in 1959 produced less than 20 bushels. Only 49,470 farms had 1 acre or more harvested in 1959. However, approximately two-thirds of the Irish potatoes were harvested on the 6,492 farms with 50 or more acres. More than 94 percent of the total production occurred on the 19,988 farms having 10 or more acres.

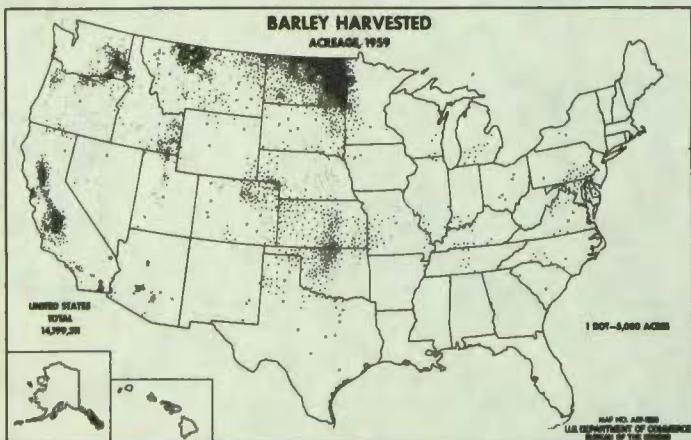
While the acreage of Irish potatoes harvested in 1959 was about the same as in 1954, the acreage harvested by farms having fewer than 50 acres declined 30.0 percent and production on these farms declined 21.1 percent. The acreage and production of farms with 50 or more acres harvested increased 29.5 percent and 37.3 percent, respectively, from 1954 to 1959.

**IRISH POTATOES—NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTING, ACRES HARVESTED, AND PRODUCTION, BY ACRES HARVESTED: 1959 AND 1954**

Farms with acres harvested of—	Total number of farms reporting		Acres harvested		Bushels harvested	
	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954
All farms....	684,853	1,432,466	1,200,431	1,210,872	373,567,119	340,187,662
Farms with less than 20 bushels harvested.....	483,806	1,137,507	NA	NA	4,129,803	9,875,982
0.1 to 0.9 acre.....	151,577	210,387	38,232	64,514	5,244,625	7,648,012
1.0 to 2.9 acres.....	21,538	44,743	26,870	55,728	3,087,420	5,559,350
3.0 to 9.9 acres.....	7,944	15,155	41,121	79,069	9,624,457	16,837,326
10.0 to 24.9 acres.....	7,668	12,359	120,748	188,801	37,394,559	53,255,406
25.0 to 49.9 acres.....	5,828	6,805	205,765	229,877	66,929,913	67,040,695
50.0 acres or more.....	6,492	5,510	767,697	592,883	247,156,312	179,970,891

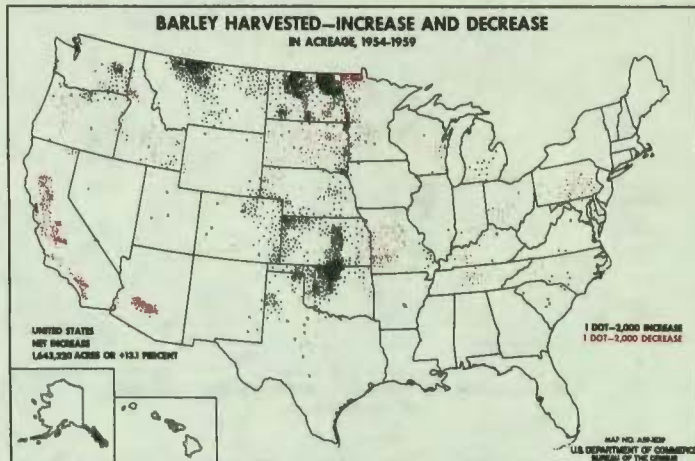
Yield of Irish potatoes was more than 311 bushels per acre in 1959. This was 9 percent higher than in 1954 and more than 2½ times the yield per acre in 1939. Increased use of fertilizer, improved seed and cultural practices, and the concentration of potato production on specialized farms in areas with the most favorable climate and soils for potato production contributed greatly to the increase in yield per acre.

**Barley.**—In 1959, barley, the eleventh most important field crop from the standpoint of value, accounted for 2.1 percent of the



value of all field crops harvested. Approximately 60 percent of the barley crop was harvested in the five States of Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, and California. Only 69 percent of the 1959 barley crop was sold.

The acreage of barley harvested in 1959 exceeded that of 1954 by 13 percent and was the largest acreage reported for any census. In 1959, the acreage harvested was 55 percent greater and the quantity harvested was 80 percent greater than for 1949.



**Rice.**—Rice, the twelfth leading field crop from the standpoint of value accounted for 1.6 percent of the value of all field crops harvested in 1959. However, the acreage of rice harvested represented only one-half of one percent of the acreage of cropland harvested. All rice harvested was grown on irrigated land. Rice was produced only in seven States: California, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Hawaii.



**Sugar beets for sugar.**—Sugar beets for sugar was the thirteenth most important field crop. This crop accounted for 1.2 percent of the value of all field crops harvested and the acreage of sugar beets was equivalent to 0.3 percent of the acreage of cropland harvested in 1959. Over 76.8 percent of the acreage of sugar beets was irrigated in 1959. Sugar beet production is localized around processing factories. Nearly two-thirds of the acreage harvested was in the five States of California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, and Michigan.